

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /158 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7318

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: PRE-DEPARTURE CONVERSATION WITH DR. JAGOTA

REF: NEW DELHI 10309

1. IN CONVERSATION JULY 24 JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH UK AND OTHER EUROPEANS IN LONDON AND ONWARD TRAVEL TO NY, GOI LOS LEGAL ADVISOR DR. JAGOTA TOLD POL COUNSELOR GOI DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET LOS TEAM IN DELHI JULY 16-17 HAD GLOSSED ALMOST COMPLETELY OVER COMMITTEE I MATTERS (SOVIETS HAD NOT NOT BROUGHT THEIR SPECIALIST WITH THEM) AND FOCUSED MAINLY ON COMMITTEE II AND III SUBJECTS. MAIN SOVIET INTEREST HAD BEEN ON FISHERIES WHERE THEY SOUGHT INDIAN AGREEMENT TO OPTIMUM EXPLOITATION OF ECONOMIC ZONE. INDIANS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH AGREED LEVELS

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OF CATCH, AND SAID INDIA WAS WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO AGREE

THAT FISHERY RESOURCES OF ECONOMIC ZONE SHOULD BE FULLY UTILIZED, BUT WERE NOT WILLING TO AGREE TO ANY SPECIFIC EXPLOITATION RIGHTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES BEYOND THOSE TO BE NEGOTIATED BILATERALLY. SOVIETS ALSO PRESSED ON ARCTIC SPECIAL AREAS INTERESTS, NOTING THAT THEY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH US AND CANADA. JAGOTA SAID THIS WAS ANOTHER AREA WHERE INDIANS AND SOVIETS HAD SIMPLY DISAGREED. ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF "ECONOMIC ZONE," JAGOTA SAID SOVIET POSITION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF US AND INDIAN RESPONSE WAS IDENTICAL WITH THAT GIVEN AMB. LEARSON DURING JULY 12-13 DISCUSSIONS IN DELHI.

2. JAGOTA SAID THAT GOI INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON LOS POLICY HAD BEEN HELD JULY 23 BUT HE DECLINED TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS. ON SEABED ISSUES, HE SAID HE WOULD TEST THE "MOOD" OF THE GROUP-77 IN NEW YORK AND DECIDE WHETHER TO ADVANCE HIS "CYCLICAL" EXPLOITATION PROPOSAL DISCUSSED WITH LEARSON AND RATINER IN DELHI. POLCOUNSELOR'S STRONG IMPRESSION WAS THAT JAGOTA REMAINS COMMITTED TO THIS POSITION AND IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO PRESS IT. HE ARGUED THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO GUARANTEED RETURN AND PROFITS FOR INDUSTRIAL STATES COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO COOPERATION WITH "ENTERPRISE". BUT HE REITERATED HIS POSITION AS VOICED TO RATINER THAT UNLESS THERE WAS FORMALIZED COMMITMENT TO ENTER INTO VENTURES WITH THE "ENTERPRISE", INDUSTRIAL STATE COMPANIES MIGHT SIMPLY DECLINE TO BID FOR "BANKED" MINING SITES.

3. ON OTHER ISSUES, JAGOTA SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN CONVINCED THAT SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION WITHIN ECONOMIC ZONE WAS AS CRITICAL A PROBLEM FOR US AS LEARSON DELEGATION HAD SUGGESTED AND THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE USG WOULD ALLOW TREATY TO FOUNDER ON THIS ISSUE. ON ALL OTHER LOS MATTERS, JAGOTA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT US WAS ESSENTIALLY SATISFIED AND THAT KEY ISSUE WAS ONLY THE SEABED PROBLEM IN COMMITTEE I. ON LATTER PROBLEM, JAGOTA SAID HE THOUGHT USG WOULD ULTIMATELY CONCLUDE THAT ITS INTERESTS WERE STILL SERVED BY SUPPORTING A TREATY EVEN IF IT PROVIDED STRICTER RULES FOR ENSURING THE OPERATING OF THE SEABED AUTHORITY'S "ENTERPRISE" THAN THOSE IN THE PRESENT RSNT. POLCOUNSELOR CAUTIONED JAGOTA THAT AMBASSADOR LEARSON AND RATINER HAD PRIVATELY EXPRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THIS AND THAT JAGOTA AND GOI DELEGATION SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN MAKING ASSESSMENT OF US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO TREATY AMENDED ALONG LINES JAGOTA WAS THINKING ABOUT. JAGOTA LISTENED BUT WE DOUBT HE WAS CONVINCED.

4. INCIDENTALLY--, MINLAW GOKHALE TOLD AUSTRALIAN HICOMM LAST WEEK THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE DRAFT BILL ON INDIA'S

ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN THE UPPER HOUSE IN MAY
THIS YEAR WOULD BE PASSED BY THE AUGUST PARLIAMENTARY SESSION,
AND CALLED THE HICOMM'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE BILL HAD
NO DATE AT WHICH IT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT.
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